

A WOMAN'S LETTER.

ROYAL MOVEMENTS.

LONDON W., April 22.

We are fairly into the London season. The King and Queen returned on Tuesday evening from their visit to Denmark; both looking invigorated by their stay in such a bracing atmosphere as Copenhagen. It is reported that the King will return to Denmark in the autumn. The simple life and the clear, cold air suit his Majesty well, and, in common with other overworked monarchs, a visit to the Danish Court does wonders for him. The

Queen, needless to say, is always delighted to visit the scene of her girlhood days. The day after their Majesties arrived, the King went to a spring race meeting at Epsom. In the evening he and the Queen went to see "Miss Elizabeth's Prisoner" at the Imperial. Yesterday the King was at Sandown, the Queen visiting picture galleries, and there was a dinner or some function in the evening. To-night there is a Court at Buckingham Palace, and on Monday they pay a visit to Ireland, where the

THE COST OF DRESS.

Dress with its wealth of hard work is becoming more and more costly. I was told the other day by a dressmaker in Bond-street that the machine is used only for sewing up the widths of a modern gown. Every bit of trimming is made and put on by hand. Ruchings, pleatings, small frills with a gathered heading made up on piping cord, with flat bias pieces of thick corded trimmings, all hand-made, are the order of the day.

At a New Bond-street dressmaker's I saw

some good examples of the season's gowns, all more or less in the Early Victorian manner. Width of shoulder, width of sleeve, fullness of skirt are the leading motifs. The dressmaker showed me a blue and white floral I thought quite charming, trimmed with pleated pieces of trimming round the skirt, and some coarse lace. The neck was finished off with a deep collarband of orange-coloured silk over twine-coloured lace. The bodices were trimmed with deep fringe and lace, with

plentiful lace ruffles, the only touch wanting in her opinion was an orange-coloured slip. The touch of yellow, ranging from that of a unripe lemon to the deepest tone of nas-turtium, is exceedingly chic. With brown or coffee colour it is considered the only wear. There was a neat cloth coat and skirt made to measure for four and a half guineas, in green and grey tweed, piped with green silk, with the new shaped coat, made with a yoke of narrow tucks below, very like a blouse, with contrasting pieces which were

luna the shoulder like the overcoats gentleman wore two years or so ago, with a deep cuff, piped with green silk. It was a smart gown for the money, beautifully finished and grown. I saw there an evening dress I thought very new and smart in style—a new French gaine in white, with a design of a sort of leaf or leaflet in varying shades, with satin spots, in which the colours of the leaves were repeated. It had been trimmed with quillings of white satin an inch wide, in a kind of looped design. The bodice had full

hanging sleeves of finely-coloured lace, and a deep berthe, on which the quilling was arranged, coming in a circle round the right arm, and in a line down the high swathed belt. On each shoulder a circle made of the quilling was arranged on a wire, which kept them in position. The foundation was of white lace, well frilled, with an overskirt of white chiffon, without which no thin costume seems complete. It softens the shading of the face, and gives a doll-like effect to the gaze of the gown itself.

THEATRICAL DRESSES.
MRS. A. DE ANOLLE

Miss Beringer's dresses were simple, but wonderfully well chosen. In the first act she wore a gown of pale blue crepe-de-chine, decorated with pinks all the way down the skirt except the bodice, which was of medium length, and floated gracefully about her. The bodice was made with a transparent lace yoke and full lace pouch, with a flat collar coming into a stiff point between the shoulders, ending on

either side almost in the form of revers, with little tassels of pale blue hanging from the points. The sleeves were tight-fitting at the top of the arm, and made of a material with a delicate frill reaching to the wrist. A small swathed bodice completed this toilette. In the second act Miss Beringer wore a kind of peach-coloured canvas, made very simply without any flourishes—merely three flat tucks put on at the edge of the skirt, which was cut with a gore in the front fastened with loops of cord and buttons all the way down. The bodice was nearly hidden by the very full skirt.

deep black and red, and the
in a bow on her chest with the ends tucked
into the waistband. I liked the evening gown
in the same cut very much. It was of oyster
coloured satin, with a deep gathered trimming
to the knee, closely gathered into the
waist. The low bodice had deep elbow sleeves
of lace, and round the neck and down the
front, a wide band of pale blue and white
chiffon, caught together with a great knot of
pale yellow roses; in her hair was a row of
small diamond stars, which graced the small
and classic head like a diadem. The last dress

was of white voile, with a gathered ruche and frill at the knees of white lace, with a high gold belt and a lot of ruffled cream lace and some gold tassels.

BOLEROS AND BLOUSES.

At the present moment nothing is more fashionable than short boleros of accordion-pleated black silk, lined with white satin and trimmed with the many styles of gathered or pleated ruffles of lace, and made long enough to show a deep cuirass-like belt. I think the belted Russian blouse has rather gone out. The short bolero is easier

to get in and out of when worn over a blouse. Stoles and peleries seem as fashionable as ever. They are rather more shaped than was the case a year ago, and are always desirable adjuncts to a smart toilette. Blouses are much trimmed with embroidery, especially the white ones, and of linen. Many patterns are shown for brodering them, and in the mercerised threads which can be had in so many shades of cream to pure white. I expect many clever people will do the ornamentation of their blouses at home. The producers of

transfers have brought out numbers of charming designs suitable for the purpose. Applying them, too, would look well on collars and cuffs and also on the bodice, and, especially, much taken up by the good housewife, the sets for wearing with shirts of collars, belts, and ties, all embroidered to match in washing cottons. The D.M.C. is the make most used for this purpose. You can get it in lovely shades, and it washes beautifully. More dressy blouses are of chiffon and lace, worn as much as possible to match the costume. You can see a glace silk blouse in our sale.

COATS AND SKIRTS.

Linon coats and skirts are beginning to appear in the shop windows—a sign of the coming summer. But the skirts, especially, are brodered by hand and made up with beautiful stitch insertions. I saw a red linen canvas trimmed with hand embroidery in black and white silk, with a short bolero over a soft French lawn blouse with very well-made cuffs of Valenciennes lace and embroidery. The crowning joy of the gown was a high swathed belt of black and white plaid silk, which lent

These should advise you to make a feature of these high belts and have a few by you, a black one finished off where it fastens with three rose-like rosettes, a black and white plaid for wearing with red or pink linens and with white. And then one of flowered silk roses and green leaves, on white ground for collies and other mammals, and an iron and silver one for when the darkness is at the bottom, fastened with cut steel buttons, and a heliotrope belt in three shades, with a touch of cherry just showing at the base.

As to hats, the long floppy lace veil is

already doomed. If hides all the lines of the neck, and the bordered veils are considered bad form. The prettiest hat, and by far the most common, is a wide brimmed, a week ago of soft gathered brown tulle on a large picture shape, with a very high crown, completely covered with twining wreaths of small pale yellow roses, with two long ends of the tulle brought from the back and tied in a bow under the left ear. This was a model to envy, and would be quite as beautiful if carried out in black tulle or fine lace.

At the monthly meeting of the council of the Association for Assisting Discharged Prisoners, held on Thursday afternoon (Mr. G. J. Cohen presiding), it was decided, as a tentative measure, to take steps to have an officer stationed at the police courts for a period of a month, so as to advise and assist deserving persons under arrest.

Mention was made of the help afforded by the officers of the Salvation Army Rescue Home in Bathurst in taking care of

discharged female prisoners from the gaol at that place, and helping them at a critical time. It was decided to recognise such action, and to communicate with the Army officials in terms of appreciation of the good work done.

[illegible]